

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /055 W
-----108218 201902Z /50

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5467

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 5768

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, UY
SUBJ: VIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MONTEVIDEO

REF: STATE 301946

1. I RECOGNIZE THAT UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES OFFERING TO HOST AN OASGA IS AN ACT OF HEMISPHERIC HOSPITALITY. HOWEVER, IN MAKING THIS OFFER THE GOU IS SEEKING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT, DESPITE ITS POOR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, IT CONTINUES TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF HEMISPHERIC COMMUNITY AND TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT ITS HARDLINE RESISTANCE TO PRESSURES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS IS SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY OF LATIN GOVERNMENTS. IN ADDITION, THE GOU OFFER IS AN OBVIOUS PLOY TO CONTINUE ITS CAMPAIGN OF DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN OAS AND IAHC. EVER SINCE GRENADA SESSION AND WITH RENEWED VIGOR RECENTLY DURING VISIT OF JURIST GROUP WHICH INCLUDED DRAFTER OF IAHC REPORT ON URUGUAY (ROBERT GOLDMAN), GOU HAS CONVEYED MESSAGE IN CONTROLLED PRESS HERE THAT IAHC SOMEHOW ACTS ON ITS OWN AND DOES NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ITS PARENT BODY. BY AGREEING TO HOLD THE OASGA HERE, THE OAS WOULD BE UNWITTINGLY PLAYING THE GOU'S GAME. THEREFORE, I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND, WITH THE BACKING OF

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COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORTED US AT GRENADA, COUNTER PROPOSE THAT OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOU OFFER TO HOST THE VIII OASGA IS CONDITIONAL ON ITS SPECIFIC AND FIRM COMMITMENT TO INVITE THE IAHC TO VISIT URUGUAY. THE COU HAS NOT SIMPLY REFUSED TO ALLOW THE IAHC TO VISIT AND REJECTED USG OVERTURES TO DO SO, IT HAS BEEN A LEADER AMONG THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES IN ATTACKING

THE COMMISSION AS BIASED AND POLITICIZED. IT IS HARDLY FITTING FOR THE OAS TO ACCEPT THE GOU OFFER WHEN THE GOU HAS MOUNTED A MAJOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ONE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S MOST IMPORTANT COMMISSIONS. IF THE OASGA IS WELCOME. GIVEN OUR EXTENSIVE, HIGHEST USG-LEVEL SUPPORT OF IAHRC WE CAN DO NO LESS THAN CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT IT BE ACCEPTED AS THE HEMISPHERIC MONITOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE AND, ABOVE ALL, TO OPPOSE ANY OAS ACTIONS THAT WOULD UNDERMINE THIS POSITION.

2. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD MAKE A BILATERAL APPROACH ON THIS ISSUE. RATHER, ONCE WE HAVE DEVELOPED A BLOCKING ONE-THIRD WHICH SUPPORTS OUR POSITION, WE SHOULD THEN MAKE A MULTILATERAL PROPOSAL TO THE GOU IN WASHINGTON ALONG THE LINES NOTED ABOVE. IF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL DECIDES TO ACCEPT THE URUGUAYAN OFFER, OUR ATTENDANCE HERE SHOULD BE NO HIGHER THAN AT THE USOAS AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, UNLESS CONDITIONS CHANGE DRAMATICALLY BETWEEN NOW AND LATE MAY.

3. THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO ENCOURAGING PANAMA TO HOST THE VIII OASGA. NO MATTER HOW OR WHEN THE SENATE VOTES ON THE CANAL TREATIES SUCH A SESSION IN PANAMA WOULD BE USEFUL. IF THE SENATE HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS WORK IT WOULD SERVE AS ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY IN SUPPORT OF THE

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TREATIES. IF THE SENATE VOTES IN FAVOR, IT CAN BE AN ON-SITE SALUTE TO THAT DECISION. AND IN THE WORST CASE, IF THE SENATE DISAPPROVES THE TREATIES, IT WOULD OFFER A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SOME DAMAGE-LIMITING PLANNING.

4. FOR USOAS AMBASSADOR MCGEE. GIVEN THE CERTAINTY THAT THE URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS WILL REPORT A SELF-SERVING AND DISTORTED VERSION OF WHAT OCCURS IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSION AND MORE FORMAL NEGOTIATION IN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON THIS MATTER, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU TAKE THE PRECAUTION OF KEEPING AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS INFORMED OF ALL THE NUANCES OF WHAT IS GOING ON. IF NOTHING ELSE, IT MAY COUNTER DELIBERATE DISTORTION BY THE FORMER. I CAN HELP ON THIS END AS WELL IF YOU THINK IT ADVISABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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